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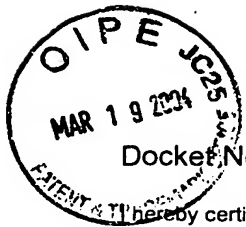
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cc

Docket No.: A-3878

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By:  Date: March 17, 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applic. No. : 10/766,593
 Applicant : Berthold Berens, et al.
 Filed : January 28, 2004
 Title : Punching and Scoring Backing Plate, Method for Producing the Backing Plate, Machine Equipped with the Backing Plate and Method for Punching and Scoring with the Backing Plate
 Docket No. : A-3878
 Customer No.: 24131

LETTER

Mail Stop: Missing Parts
Hon. Commissioner for Patents,
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

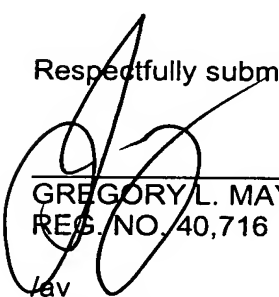
The above-mentioned new patent application was filed on January 28, 2004 without a signed oath or declaration, under the provision of 37 C.F.R. 1.53(f).

In accordance with the above-mentioned rule, enclosed herewith is the original signed declaration.

The undersigned hereby states that the application filed in the Patent and Trademark Office is the application which the inventor(s) executed by signing the declaration. MPEP 602 (8th ed., Aug. 2001).

The fee required for the late filing of an oath or declaration in the amount of \$130.00 is also enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



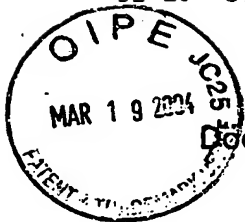
GREGORY L. MAYBACK
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Docket No.: A-3878

**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY
IN ORIGINAL APPLICATION**

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; that I verily believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**PUNCHING AND SCORING BACKING PLATE, METHOD FOR PRODUCING THE
BACKING PLATE, MACHINE EQUIPPED WITH THE BACKING PLATE AND
METHOD FOR PUNCHING AND SCORING WITH THE BACKING PLATE**

described and claimed in the specification bearing that title, that I understand the content of the specification, that I do not know and do not believe the same was ever known or used in the United States of America before my or our invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my or our invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application, that the same was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application, that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to this application, that I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56, and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate of this invention has been filed earlier than the following in any country foreign to the United States prior to this application by me or my legal representatives or assigns:

German Application 103 03 178.2, filed January 28, 2003, the International Priority of which is claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 119.

I hereby appoint practitioners associated with the Customer Number

24131

as my attorneys and/or agents to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the United States Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

Address all correspondence and telephone calls to:

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POST OFFICE BOX 2480
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Fax: (954) 925-1101**

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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BERTHOLD BERENS



Inventor's Signature

05.03.2004

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Date

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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